The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Those we call ancients were really new in everything.—Pascal.

WHOLE NO. 1029. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 42.

Couzens Condemns Wage Cutters Who Would Destroy Self Respect

Washington, Dec. 27.—Senator Couzens lost his fight to have the Administration's $116,000,000 construction bill include a provision for the prevailing wage in that locality, the eight-hour day and employment of local labor.

"I certainly am licked in this case," declared the Michigan lawmaker who expressed a willingness to have the bill defeated to "find out how far the State and Federal Governments are willing to go in the depression of wages."

"As far as I am personally concerned," he said, "I could be perfectly willing to have the bill defeated in preference to giving contractors $116,000,000 for the purpose of depressing wages. In other words, the $116,000,000 is only a drop in the bucket, but it is enough to enable them to go out and tempt thousands of unemployed to surrender their self-respect and accept whatever wage the contractor sees fit to pay.

"If it is necessary in this country for conditions to get worse in order to have them get better, I am for making them just as bad as it is possible to make them in order to accomplish that result.

"If that sort of thing is necessary to waken the employers, the Federal and State Governments to the necessity of maintaining standards of wages, then we had better go the limit and find out just how far the State and Federal Governments are willing to go in the depression of wages.

"I have nothing further to say, for I think I know when I am licked, and I certainly am licked in this case."

DANVILLE MILL STOCKHOLDERS ARE HAPPY

Stockholders of the Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills are happy over the usual 3 per cent semi-annual dividend on their $7,500,000 preferred stock.

This distribution of $225,000 also brings joy to Danville merchants and other anti-unionists who feared that failure to declare the dividend would encourage 4,500 striking textile workers.

These small traders believe prosperity depends on low wages, and they bask in the smiles of industrial autocrats by serving as strikebreakers for the element who are putting them out of business through chain stores.

The dividend is the result of wage cuts and speed up schemes that forced these workers on strike.

The wage reduction is in defiance of promises made last year to President Hoover at his notable conference in the White House.

"Wages" of the dollar must be paid, though workers are sweated and women and children hunger. When these workers protest they are answered by soldiers, police, injunctions and evictions.

The strikers pleaded for arbitration, but their offer was spurned. The governor of Virginia made a similar plea, but autocracy contemptuously replied: "There is nothing to arbitrate."

That official then meekly turned the state militia over to arrogant mill barons who hoped to break the strike.

Virginia's governor may well ask himself if he arose to the heights of a courageous public official who would refuse to bull-pen strikers at the request of mill autocrats who declined to submit their dispute to fellow citizens.

That $225,000 dividend is associated with hunger and tears. It is a denial of voluntary association—a fundamental right that every man and woman is supposed to possess.

President's $116,000,000 Relief Bill Mainly For Roads, With Low Wages

Washington, Dec. 27.—The President signed a bill appropriating $116,000,000 for emergency construction work, which Senators La Follette and Walsh (Mass.) declared does not meet the unemployed problem.

Senator Couzens lost his fight to insert in the bill a provision which would compel employment of local labor and the payment of the highest prevailing wage in that locality to laborers on government construction work.

The two Senators declared that the appropriation is totally inadequate to cope with distress throughout the country.

Senator La Follette read into the record replies to a questionnaire he recently sent out asking for unemployment data. He said these messages constitute "a complete refutation of the statements that the situation is well in hand." His figures came chiefly from points west of the Allegheny Mountains, while Mr. Walsh produced similar letters and telegrams from Eastern areas.

Unemployment conditions, accompanied by acute distress, are not confined to any one locality, the two Senators reported.

Mr. La Follette asked Senators who go to their homes for Christmas to study conditions among the unemployed, and added: "I hope that when they return they will be at least as generous as they were to corporations and income taxpayers last year."

Senator Couzens fought for his bill that would provide for the employment of local labor and the payment of prevailing wages, but Senator Jones said the bill will be held up indefinitely in conference if the Senate insisted on that provision.

The $116,000,000 appropriation is divided as follows:

Federal aid highway system to States, $80,000,000.

Rivers and harbors, $22,500,000.

Flood control on the Mississippi and tributaries, $3,000,000.

Highways in national forests, $3,000,000.

Roads and trails in national forests, $3,000,000.

Roads in unreserved public lands, $1,000,000.

Roads and trails in national parks, $1,500,000.

Total, $116,000,000.

The $116,000,000 is mainly for road making. This work can not be done in cold weather, because cement can not be handled under such conditions.

RESERVE FUND FOR JOBLESS URGED BY STATE LAWMAKER

Madison, Wis., Dec. 27.—A new unemployment relief plan which would require industries to lay aside in times of prosperity a small percentage of their payrolls each week in a reserve fund to take care of the thousands thrown out of work in times of depression, was outlined in a radio talk by Prof. Harold M. Groves of the University of Wisconsin economics department.

Prof. Groves was recently elected to the State legislature.

Condemning the present practice of modern industry, which builds up reserve funds for dividends to be paid to stockholders at times when profits are small, without making corresponding provision for periods of reserves, Prof. Groves asked why industry should not provide "for some reserves for the unemployed similar to those provided for the stockholders."

"Industry has expected the consumer to pay prices which cover financial reserves set aside for all sorts of industrial hazards and delayed costs," said Prof. Groves. "There are reserves for depreciation, for depletion, for obsolescence, for taxes and for dividends. Is it not fair to assume that no industry is paying its own way until it takes care of its reserve labor also? Why not some reserves for the unemployed similar to those provided for stockholders?"

The educator declared that the next State Legislature will be a sad disappointment if it stops at immediate unemployment relief. "The psychology of the people is ripe for more fundamental action—something which would put us in a state of preparedness for the next wave of this menace."

Under the jobless reserve fund, Prof. Groves explained, each industry would be required to lay aside a small percentage of its payroll each week as a reserve for unemployment. These reserves would be deposited with a government board and invested in first-class securities. Unemployment would be regarded as one of the overhead costs of doing business, and each establishment would be expected to pay its own costs and to establish sufficient reserves to do so.

Prof. Groves emphasized the need for shortening the work day. This, he pointed out, will reduce the supply of labor.

HOPE IS NO WORKLESS SOLUTION; HOURS OF LABOR MUST BE REDUCED

Washington, Dec. 27.—"The thoughtless optimism that in the long run unemployment will work itself out is simply heartless disregard of human needs," said Congressman Kelly of Pennsylvania in urging passage of the 44-hour bill for postal workers.

"Nor will such remedies as labor exchanges, unemployment insurance, stabilization, or confidence entirely meet the situation," said the lawmaker.

"Increased production with decreased working force has reached the danger point. Shorter hours with no reduction in wages is a step which must be taken.

"Think of the record. Between 1919 and 1925 the available per capita production in all industries in the United States increased 39 per cent. Between 1925 and 1929 it increased another 25 per cent.

"At the same time the number of workers in factories was 1,250,000 less in 1928 than in 1923. Taking in farming, railroading and mining, there were 2,300,000 fewer workers in 1928 than in 1923.

"Production mounted side by side with employment decreasing. These are the factors which demand adjustment.

"We can produce much more than we can consume. Here is no question of famine as in the olden days—it is the problem of plenty. But it does not follow that we can produce more than Americans need and want. The trouble is that potential buyers do not have the money to purchase the products they really want and need.

"Nothing will cause an effective demand for the products of American farms and factories, upon which employment depends, except money in the hands of the workers. The only way to restore that purchasing power is through jobs. And the way to make jobs for more men is to fix the working hours of those engaged in production to the point where consumption will balance production."

MORE UNEMPLOYED DURING DECEMBER

Washington, Dec. 27.—"December unemployment in the country as a whole (union and non-union) was 16.5 per cent, compared with 15.9 per cent in November," said William Green, president A. F. of L. This estimate is based on reports to the A. F. of L.

"Our estimate of the total number out of work in all trades in the United States, union and non-union, is 5,000,000 in November (revised figures) and 5,400,000 in December," said Mr. Green.

"In November, while there were no more than the usual increase in unemployment among union members, unorganized workers in manufacturing industries experienced far more than the usual increase in the number out of work.

"Our December figures show that conditions in the metal trades are no worse since November, but unemployment in printing and building trades is worse than ever before in the three years of our records.

"In clothing and textiles, the unemployed totaled 25 per cent in November, compared to 27 per cent in December. In the following more were out of work in December: Theatres, manufacturing (the largest was in manufacturing), service and trade, railroads, water transports, street railways, musicians. Unemployment among musicians is as serious as in the building trades."

WAGE CUTS FORCED ON WORKERS; USUAL DIVIDENDS FOR INVESTORS

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—"Every corporation recognizes a responsibility for dividend payments to its stockholders in time of depression, but wages of employes are reduced," said Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative A. F. of L., in an address to the Labor Institute.

"In 1927, according to Federal income tax returns, all corporations making profits amounting to $8,982,000,000 paid out $5,786,000,000 in dividends," said Mr. McGrady. "The other $3,196,000,000 was held in reserve, but nothing was laid aside for the workers. Not one dollar helped to create this tremendous reserve.

"Wage payments in industry in the first half of 1930 were below 1929 by $707,000,000, while dividend payments increased over 1929 by $350,000,000. Wage earners' incomes were cut 12 per cent while stockholders' dividends increased 28 per cent.

"The same thing happened in railroads. The first half of 1930 wage payments to railroad employes fell below 1929 by $76,515,000 while dividend payments increased over 1929 by $39,900,000. That is, the workers' incomes were cut 6 per cent while payments to stockholders increased 18 per cent. Thus, while between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 wage earners were out of work and those who kept their jobs had their incomes cut by shorter work, stockholders were receiving higher dividends than ever."

Mr. Green then read a long list of corporations that have reduced wages while maintaining dividends. Two hundred firms increased dividends over 1929; extra dividends have been paid by 996 concerns and 932 paid stock dividends, while unemployed total millions and part-time workers and those who work full time have been forced to accept wage cuts.

XMAS CHEER DENIED STRIKERS' KIDDIES

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 27.—The season that brings joy to childhood does not apply to strikers' kiddies in this vicinity.

The Public Welfare Commission announced that no striker or his family would receive any of the Xmas funds.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Textile interests that oppose organized labor in Greensboro, N. C., have gone to such extremes that the local Xmas Cheer Fund was affected, according to a report from an A. F. of L. organizer to A. F. of L. headquarters. The organizer said:

"The Ladies' Auxiliary of the local Typographical Union, working with the Greensboro Central Body relief committee to secure toys and Xmas funds for children of workers discriminated against by joining the Textile Union in Greensboro, N. C., called upon the Cheer Fund Committee of this city to know if the children of these textile workers, who were discharged for joining the union, would be cared for by this public cheer committee.

"In the event that the committee would treat the strikers' children as paupers, the Ladies' Auxiliary agreed to turn over to the committee all toys and clothing they had collected.

"The Ladies' Auxiliary were informed that these children would not receive anything from this Public Cheer Fund."

LABOR RADIO STATION FAVORED BY EXAMINER

Washington, Dec. 27.—The request of labor's radio station WCFL, Chicago, for increased power on a clear channel is favored by Ellis A. Yost, chief examiner Federal Radio Commission, in a report to the commission.

This radio station is owned and operated by Chicago Federation of Labor, and has been repeatedly indorsed by A. F. of L. conventions.

The examiner shows that organized labor invested $200,000 in the station. The annual cost of operation is $210,404.61, and the annual income is $188,066.53.

"The applicant," continues the examiner, "has the financial resources to enable it to construct and operate a 50 KW station in a manner acceptable to the listening public and the Federal Radio Commission.

"There is available to this station the necessary talent to enable it to constantly maintain well diversified and highly acceptable programs. The station is located in one of the leading financial, industrial, musical and educational centers of America.

"The service record, available financial resources and high class program service; the ability of the owners and managers, and the need of the people for the service proposed to be rendered by station WCFL challenge the careful and serious consideration of the Federal Radio Commission to the request of this station for increased power on a clear channel."

WOLL URGES FIGHT AGAINST "RACKETEERS"

New York, Dec. 27.—Racketeers were referred to as "industrial pirates" by Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice president, in an address to the Building Trades Employers' Association.

The speaker urged legislation and the co-operation of all trades and business to assist in stamping out these hold-ups.

PENSION LAW FAVORED

Concord, N. H., Dec. 27.—An old age pension law and changes in the State workmen's compensation law are favored by John S. S. Davie, state commissioner of labor.

Compensation changes include increase in the weekly benefits to 66 2-3 per cent of the average wage, new provisions for medical expenses, scheduled list of injuries, the creation of an industrial accident board and elimination of the right of the worker to select his method of settlement after an injury.

MILLIONS CAN'T CARE FOR NEW YORK IDLE

Washington, Dec. 27.—The millions of dollars raised in New York for unemployed is but a "drop in the bucket as compared to what is needed," said Senator Copeland, in discussion proposed relief on the floor of the Senate.

"My city has been extremely generous," said Mr. Copeland. "It has raised $8,000,000 to take care of the immediate emergency, but $8,000,000 is only a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed to relieve human suffering in the section of the country where I live, and I believe that is true of every portion of our great country."

TWENTY DAYS' PAROLE GIVEN TO UNIONISTS

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 27.—Gov. Gardner paroled Lawrence Hogan, Dell Lewis and Wes Fowler, convicted with Fred Hoffman, organizer United Textile Workers, on frame up rioting charges in connection with the Marion strike.

The sheriff and deputies who killed several strikers were acquitted, but the three men were sentenced to long months in jail. They had 20 days more to serve. Hoffman served a 30-day sentence and paid a fine.

The manner in which the four men were convicted, together with the discharge of murderous peace officers, was cleverly calculated to intimidate laborers who dared to join a union or suspend work.

CANE-CUTTING MACHINE ADDS TO SUGAR CRISIS

Washington, Dec. 27.—Cuba's vast army of unemployed is swelled by a cane-cutting machine which, operated by three men, will replace 200 men, said Ethelbert Stewart, commissioner United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, writing in a local newspaper.

The sugar interests of the world are now attempting to stabilize (limit) production, but the machine's appearance at this time, according to Mr. Stewart, will offset the effect of any agreement made by the sugar growers.

"From a humanitarian point of view," continued Mr. Stewart, "the machine is needed. "There is perhaps no labor still performed by human hands that is as hard and as laborious as that of cutting, piling and loading sugar cane. Nowhere in all the field of labor, within my experience, is a machine so needed from a humanitarian point of view, but its presence will be harmful to an agreement between the growers."

The commissioner refers to the introduction of this machine as a "catastrophe which may make it socially and politically impossible to raise sugar cane."

"Thus our progress feeds our despair. An industry which, taking it by and large, has paid the least attention to its obligations to the world of mankind which in every country in the world seeks to employ the lowest in the scale of civilization, and which, in every country in the world, with the exception of Hawaii, pays the lowest wage of any industry in that country, has produced a labor situation and a level of labor intelligence which will probably smash the machines as fast as they are introduced and reproduce the experience of the Manchester anti-machine riots."

"LAME DUCK' CONGRESS UNEQUALLED IN WORLD

Washington, Dec. 27.—"There is no other office in the world where there is a postponement of 13 months after election before the official elected takes office," said Congressman Johnson of Texas, in favoring the Norris amendment that would end "lame duck" Congresses.

"Our State legislatures ordinarily convene in January after the election in November," said Mr. Johnson.

"In all of the other leading countries in the world, parliament usually convenes in two or three weeks after the election. The same rule applies in Canada.

"In France the Chamber of Deputies, in case of a new election, must convene within 10 days. In Germany, the Reichstag convenes not later than 30 days after the election. In Hungary the parliament is six weeks and in Austria it is 30 days.

"In Brazil three months, and in Spain two months. Even the latest date for the convening of the Congress.

"In the Netherlands three months is the limit and the Polish parliament must convene on the third Tuesday after election.

"You will observe," continued Mr. Johnson, "that in all the other leading governments in the world, the Congress, or whatever their parliamentary body is called, convenes within from 10 days to three months following their election."

CHAIN STORES FIGHT BETWEEN THEMSELVES

New York, Dec. 27.—Where chain stores control from 50 to 75 per cent of the grocery business of a community, they are fighting between themselves, says the Standard Statistics Company.

This statistical organization, following a review of the chains, points out that competition is no longer solely between grocery chain and independent, but between chain systems. This costly competition may result in mergers or agreements, it is predicted. Service, rather than price cutting, features the new competition.

"Competition in service rather than in price may require finer buildings, more attractive equipment and better grade and higher paid personnel. It leads to advertising of an institutional nature in the endeavor to build up good will toward the individual system. In this type of competition the personal factor will be of particular importance.

"These developments, in the long run, unless offset by further operating economies in other directions, will result in gradually rising costs of chain store operation. Friendly agreements, or mergers and consolidations, may check dangerous competition."

BUILDING PROGRAM URGED

Washington, Dec. 27.—An appropriation of $400,000,000 for the purchase of sites and erection of post office buildings is provided in a bill introduced by Congressman Hare of South Carolina.

The author of the bill said he has a twofold purpose—to relieve unemployment and to stop the government renting buildings for post offices at an annual cost of $15,000,000.

MOTOR TRAINS EXEMPT

Austin, Tex., Dec. 27.—Railroads in this state are not required to maintain full crews on gasoline motor trains, according to the Travis County District Court.

MACHINE BENEFITS SHOULD BE DIVIDED

New York, Dec. 27.—Former Secretary of War Newton D. Baker questions the justness of machine owners taking all benefits of automatic machinery and other new production devices.

"I have a notion," said Mr. Baker, in an address to a group of vocational educators, "that industry has no right, as a fundamental proposition, to take all the gains that come from this rapid substitution of machine processes for human labor.

"It seems to me that the most characteristic thing about an industrial civilization is that we invite, or rather coerce, the individual to surrender his independence and to become dependent for our sakes. That seems to me to entail on that society a grave responsibility for whatever disability that new and otherwise undesirable status imposes upon the individual."

"COPS" ARE ENJOINED FROM CHECKING PRESS

Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 27.—Judge Walter S. Gates of the Superior Court enjoined police officials from interfering with the sale and distribution of the Los Angeles Citizen, published by the local labor movement.

The Citizen printed an account of a moving picture operators' strike. When the papers were sold in the vicinity of the unfair theater, policemen arrested newsboys on the charge of "disturbing the picketing in advance."

In ordering the police department to desist from interfering in any way with the labor paper, Judge Gates said:

"The power to prohibit the publication of or to suppress a newspaper is not within the compass of legislative action in this State, and any law enacted for that purpose, or any attempt in that direction, is clearly in derogation of the Bill of Rights. Nowhere will be found any grant to the State of this Union any authority which sustains the doctrine that a municipal corporation is invested with the power to prevent the sale of newspapers a nuisance. The power to suppress one conceded the power to suppress all.

"The doctrine of the Constitution must prevail in this State, which clothes its citizen with liberty to speak, write or publish his opinion on any and all subjects, limited only by his responsibility for the abuse of such privilege."

OLD AGE PENSIONS URGED IN JERSEY

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 27.—At a hearing held by the Old Age Pension Law Committee, created by the State Legislature, George Pelettieri charged that "old people are being discarded and imprisoned in alms houses because American industry has no place for men and women past middle age."

He said he was speaking for the 17,000 Mercer County residents who voted for him in the last election on a platform of pensions for the aged.

Assembly Joseph L. Thompson of Ocean County declared that "a State capable of increasing its annual expenditures from $3,500,000 in 1917 to $18,000,000 in 1929 is surely able to spend another million dollars to provide for the aged."

The one opposing voice was former State Senator Charles C. Pilgram, speaking as counsel for the New Jersey Manufacturers' Association. The pension plan held dangers of becoming a dole system, which would encourage idleness and be an unjust burden on taxpayers, he said.

FASTER FREIGHT TRAINS

Washington, Dec. 27.—Freight trains during October attained the highest average speed for any corresponding period on record, 18.7 miles per hour, according to a report of the Bureau of Railway Economics.

METAL WORKERS STRIKE

Paterson, N. J., Dec. 27.—A 10 per cent wage cut by the Wright Aero Corporation system, affecting 1,300 machinists and metal polishers, is resisted by a strike of the workers.

Farmers Can't Buy Food With 'Relief' Funds

Washington, Dec. 27.—In a discussion marked by bitterness the Senate accepted the administration's plan to eliminate from the farmers' drought relief bill any direct authorization that money loaned to farmers could be used to buy food for themselves, their wives and children.

The House had voted $30,000,000 to loan to farmers to buy seed, fertilizer and feed for live stock. The Senate doubled that amount and provided that farmers could borrow this money to buy food for themselves and families.

The Administration opposed this plan, which Senator Gerry of Rhode Islyde declared to be "perilously near the dole." The House eliminated the provision, as urged by agricultural representatives of the two branches of Congress a compromise of $45,000,000 was agreed to, of which no "food" was stricken out. Instead, the Secretary of Agriculture is empowered to make loans to producers of seed and fertilizer and to feed stock "and for such other purposes incident to crop production as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture."

Administration Senators insisted that this empowered the secretary to make food loans, but opponents called attention to the secretary's declaration, and insisted that the new proposal is "a face-saving scheme" for men who want a defense for refusing to appease hunger.

Other Senators referred to money that has been voted to buy food for Russian, Chinese and other distressed people. These Senators sarcastically suggested that our unemployed be shipped to those countries that they may be given relief by the United States.

Opponents of the word "food" feared that a precedent would be established and they insisted that the Red Cross can provide for every case of "genuine distress."

This statement was attacked by several Senators. Mr. Barkley of Kentucky declared that "the Red Cross is said suffering in his state. "There are from 300,000 to 500,000 people in my State who are hungry," he said. "They live in the rural sections, where neither the Red Cross nor the Salvation Army has facilities to look after them."

Other Senators contradicted Pollyanna statements from State to State, believe there are hungry persons in the United States.

Senator Caraway made this unchallenged statement:

"I could fill whole volumes of the Congressional Record with letters and telegrams from presidents of banks, from merchants, from lawyers, from judges of courts, from people in all walks of life, from farmers and from people in every walk of life telling me that not only are the people without means, but they are actually starving and there is no relief in sight."

Senators who opposed the Administration's compromise said they accepted it rather than secure nothing for the drought-stricken areas.

NEW RELIEF PLAN OFFERED BY SMOOT

Washington, Dec. 27.—Senator Smoot offered this suggestion to his colleagues while the Senate was discussing relief for farmers in the drought area:

"If every person in the state of New York would forego eating one meal a week and give the cost of that meal to a fund to take care of the poor of the United States, there would be no suffering for food in this country."

The Utah lawmaker opposed the Senate's plan to loan money to hungry farmers. The word "food" was stricken from the bill because the Administration declared it "was perilously near the dole."

HOUSE "STONE WALL" IS BAR TO PROGRESS

Washington, Dec. 27.—Reactionary elements in the House stood at a stone wall against the Senate's humane proposals for unemployment and drought relief.

The House cut off $15,000,000 for farm relief in drought sections and thus made it impossible to apply any of this money for food for hungry farmers and their families.

The House successfully opposed Senator Couzens' provision in the $116,000,000 building bill that local labor should be used and prevailing wages in that locality paid.

CHANGES IN LABOR LAW

Boston, Dec. 27.—Representative E. J. Kelley of the Massachusetts Assembly suggests that maximum weekly compensation to injured workers be increased from $18 to $20 and minimum weekly payments from $9 to $10.

ACCIDENTS DROP

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 27.—Industrial accidents in November, this year, were the lowest since May, 1922.

TRAINMEN CUT HOURS TO AID UNEMPLOYED

Cleveland, Dec. 27.—Members of the brotherhoods of trainmen and firemen are voluntarily reducing their monthly mileage to aid unemployed fellow members.

The plan reduces the wages of those sharing jobs with unemployed, and will cost the roads nothing. Over 10,000 members of the trainmen are out of employment.

The two executives made it plain that the voluntary mileage plan is a temporary arrangement and does not affect the plan to secure a permanent labor adjustment that will reduce the work week.

FORD PLANTS SHUT DOWN

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 27.—Ford plants in this city ceased operations. The company said the shutdown "is in line with the policy of closing at this season of the year in order that an inventory may be taken."

No one knows how long the plants will be closed. The year-end inventory has formerly been two weeks. The company has been operating on three days a week for three months.

WHEAT AT LOW COST

New York, Dec. 27.—Mechanical equipment now makes it possible to produce wheat at 10 cents a bushel, declared Hickman Price, owner of a 30,000-acre farm in Texas, in an address to the American University Club.

The successful farmer of the future will be the one who cultivates large acreage, he said. The effect on the small farmer was not discussed.